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## BOOK REVIEWS

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AN INTRODUCTION TO THE PROBLEM OF GOVERNMENT, by Westel W. Willoughby and Lindsay Rogers. (Garden City, N. Y.: Doubleday, Page & Co., 1921.)

Students of government have recognized for some time that there has been a distinct need for such a work as the one under review. Any number of excellent text books on the descriptive organization of modern governments are available. For example, Bryce's *Modern Democracies* affords the reader an outline of the organization and administration of modern democratic governments. The purpose of this volume, however, is, as the authors have pointed out in the preface, to introduce the reader to the problems of constitutional and popular government.

Some knowledge of the organization of modern governments by the reader is presupposed by the authors, yet they have not excluded descriptive matter altogether. The abstract principles discussed are adequately illustrated, without giving a full description of the constitutional system of the particular state whose problems are under consideration. Professors Willoughby and Rogers deal "analytically and critically rather than descriptively with governmental structures". From the tangled skein of problems common to all constitutional systems the authors have attempted to unravel the reasons for the apparent success or failure of the several systems. Numerous practical problems confronting modern governments are noted without attempting, in many instances, to offer a solution.

If the thoughtful reader would appreciate the principles of government, he must understand the place of politics in the social sciences. The authors have, therefore, outlined the relation existing between the several social sciences and politics. Such topics as the nature and sphere of government and the relationship existing between the individual and the state receive due consideration. It is interesting to note in this connection that this part of the volume is based largely upon Prof. Willoughby's earlier work, *The Nature of the State*. In the present volume, however, a more paternalistic government is advocated.

Suggested topics for further investigation are appended to each chapter and the foot-notes contain copious references to well-known authorities.

Although primarily intended for the student of government, the thoughtful lawyer may well study this excellent work, and we are sure that he will find it both profitable and enjoyable reading. It is, therefore, a pleasure to recommend this study to the legal profession in order that the workings of our own governmental affairs may be more thoroughly understood and appreciated.

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CASES ON CONTRACTS, by Arthur L. Corbin. (St. Paul: West Publishing Company, 1921, pp. xxiv, 1514.)

There have been so many casebooks on Contracts put upon the market

that the question is constantly being raised as to which one is to be used for the course as taught in each law school. The average casebook on the subject is satisfactory in its way, but is usually subject to two points of criticism: (1) there are not enough cases set forth to properly illustrate the question of law involved; (2) the cases used by the author are rarely recent. The law student of today is primarily interested in the modern law; he realizes that the old decisions are brought to his attention to show the growth of a rule of law, and he appreciates the value of this instruction; but he wants to know what the recent cases have held on the question.

In this casebook, Mr. Corbin has well taken advantage of the distinct opportunity, and has avoided these two great faults. Enough cases are set forth to give the student a full illustration and example of the difficulties raised, and how the different courts came to their respective conclusions; and by the reiteration of the same question under the various sets of facts, the student has impressed upon his mind that particular rule of law with its various and necessary corollaries. The cases are well selected as to importance, date, and clarity. Over half of the cases have been decided since 1900, and many of the decisions have been handed down in the past few years. Over two-thirds of the cases are from the federal courts and various State courts of the United States; and even the period of the English reporters is sacrificed to include more cases from the recent past and from our own jurisdictions.

The arrangement of topics departs somewhat from the customary order as found in the various casebooks and text-books—differing, incidentally, from the author's edition of Anson on Contracts. It is interesting to see that the Statute of Frauds has been placed in the last chapter of this casebook, perhaps this arrangement will make it more possible for the average student to get a real grasp on the difficulties of the Statute, by force of having completed the study of the other phases of Contracts. The author is to be commended on the chapter on Third Party Beneficiaries; the subject is well worked up and developed. Several topics have been omitted from consideration in this casebook, such as: Fraud, Capacity of Parties, and Specific Performance, on account of the fact that these subjects are usually covered completely by other courses in the law school work.